

# ASPIRA®



## APEX

ASPIRA  
Parents for Educational  
Excellence  
Program

**APEX** is part of the **ASPIRA** Community Mobilization for Educational Excellence (COMEX) Initiative striving to forge new relationships between Latino families, their communities, and local educators. Initially funded by a three-year grant from the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund for implementation in **ASPIRA** sites in Illinois and Pennsylvania, **APEX** has been refunded by DeWitt Wallace for an additional three years which will allow for expansion to all seven **ASPIRA** sites. Current **APEX** sites include Chicago, IL; Philadelphia, PA; Newark, NJ; New York, NY; and Rio Piedras, PR. Future sites include Miami, FL, and Bridgeport, CT.

## How Does **APEX** Work?

The **APEX** Program consists of two basic components:

### 1. The **APEX** Workshop Series

#### The **APEX** Workshop Series

addresses self-esteem in parents and children, school structure, helping children improve their study habits, communication skills for the home, parents' rights in the schools, group dynamics, and leadership skills. The curriculum used for the workshops comes in two manuals developed by the **ASPIRA** Association in both Spanish and

### 2. One-on-One Technical Assistance

English: The **APEX** Workshop Series, and Organizing and Working with Parent Groups: A Manual for **APEX** Facilitators.

**Technical Assistance** is provided for parents on an as-needed basis. With increased awareness of educational issues and support offered through the **APEX** Program, parents have a base from which to begin advocating for their children and their community's education.

*Reflecting **ASPIRA**'s commitment to enhance Latino leadership, the **ASPIRA** Parents for Educational Excellence (**APEX**) Program reaches out to Latino parents who desire to become involved in their children's education, but may not be sure where to start. **APEX** trains parents to improve education in their communities and to help them mobilize other parents to join in their efforts.*

## **APEX Parent Trainers**

The **APEX** Program is designed so that parents who have graduated from the **APEX** Program can be further trained to conduct the **APEX** Workshop Series themselves. Parents attend intensive workshop facilitator training sessions to become **APEX** Parent Trainers. They then form Parent Teams and each team member recruits at least five others for whom they and their partner will facilitate the **APEX** Workshop Series.

Parents who have participated in the **APEX** Program report that they have become more involved in their children's education in a variety of ways, from simply creating a quiet space at home for their child's study to becoming elected to local school councils. During the first year of the **APEX** Workshop Series, 10 **APEX** parents in Chicago were elected to positions on local school councils, Chapter One committees, and local school bilingual committees participating in the type of community involvement the **APEX** Program was designed to stimulate.

# APEX Order Form

English Set - Includes one copy of Workshop and Facilitator Manuals

Item #AP1.....\$50.00

Spanish Set - Includes one copy of Workshop and Facilitator Manuals

Item #AP2.....\$50.00

Four Volume Set - Includes both Spanish and English Manuals

Item #AP3.....\$85.00

Item #	Quantity	Total
<b>TOTAL</b>		

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Name

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Address

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City, State, Zip

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Phone Number

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Form of Payment

Check     Purchase Order

ASPIRA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

# How do I learn about APEX?

Informational fliers publicizing APEX Orientation Night are posted at local schools and throughout the community at the beginning of the school year. At orientation, parents get an introduction to the APEX Program, and interested parents can sign up to participate in the APEX Workshop Series.

Questions regarding APEX should be directed to:

ASPIRA National Office

    APEX Program

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    Washington, DC 20005

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Since 1961, the ASPIRA Association, Inc. has served and advocated on behalf of Puerto Rican and other Latino youth and their families. ASPIRA helps over 200,000 students develop the confidence and leadership skills necessary to pursue academic excellence and become dynamic contributors to society.